



UNIVERSITY OF  
FLORIDA

# IFAS EXTENSION

## Santa Rosa County Names Master Gardener of the Year

Jeanne Blage was recently named Santa Rosa County Master Gardener of the Year at the annual Master Gardener Awards Banquet held December 14, 2005. Jeanne, a Santa Rosa Master Gardener since 1996, was chosen for her many contributions to the community and her involvement in the organization.

Jeanne volunteered over 200 hours to UF/IFAS Extension programs in 2005. She is an active board member of Friends of the Gardens and an organizer of the first Harvest Happenings Fall Festival. She was a key team member in almost every project undertaken during the year.

Nelda Seever was named Santa Rosa County Master Gardener of the Class of 2005. Nelda contributed over 300 volunteer hours in her first year as a Master Gardener. Nelda has participated in a variety of activities including assisting county residents with gardening questions.

Several other Master Gardeners were recognized for their outstanding participation in community projects. Jacque Larson and Larry Busbee received the Evergreen Award for their dependable service and significant contribution to educational projects.

The Santa Rosa County Master Gardener Association is a volunteer organization sponsored by UF/IFAS. Volunteers are trained to educate the public in research-based horticulture practices. During 2005, over 4000 hours were donated to community projects in Santa Rosa County. This volunteer time is valued at over \$66,000. In addition, volunteers attended over 700 hours of continuing education to improve their ability to serve the needs of the county.



**Jeanne Blage receives the UF/IFAS Santa Rosa County Master Gardener of the Year award from Theresa Friday, Master Gardener Coordinator**